

## *Preface*

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The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) has carried out various bilateral projects to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH) with Member States in the region. These projects, in the Centre's areas of specialisation—information and networking—have acted as stimulants to build ICH information and strengthen solidarity throughout the region.

In this context, ICHCAP initiated the project *Field Survey of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in the Asia-Pacific Region* in 2009. The project aims to collect information on safeguarding systems and policies, ICH inventories, ICH-related organisations, ICH lists, and pending issues regarding ICH safeguarding, and it aims to obtain a grasp on the current situation to discover appropriate measures to promote ICH safeguarding. Since 2009, the project has been carried out in over thirty Member States of the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2014 as well, ICHCAP worked in collaboration with experts and institutes from five countries—China, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uzbekistan—to carry out the field survey project. The final report from the project will be used as a resource for states within the region to strengthen their understanding of ICH in other countries in the region. It will also serve as a resource that will help determine particular needs and provide a direction for new cooperative projects for safeguarding ICH.

In particular, Ms Faroghat Azizi, the Director-General of Odam va Olam and her research team cooperated with ICHCAP on the 2014 field survey in Tajikistan. This was a follow-up survey to the 2010 survey and dealt with updated and supplementary information on ICH safeguarding. Owing to the team's efforts, we now publish this report on the situation of Tajikistan's ICH safeguarding efforts.

ICHCAP will continue this project over the next several years to cover all the Member States in the Asia-Pacific region. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the organisations and individuals who worked together on this field survey project.

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